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Newsletter of the Idaho Native Plant Society • Promoting Interest in Idaho's Native Flora

Aquatic Plants of Thousand Springs State Park

Article and Photos by Samuel DeGrey, Loasa Chapter

Many of us who are interested in botany tend to overlook aquatic plants. Perhaps it's because of the difficulty of collection, a lack of showy flowers, or a perceived lack of diversity. I blame culture—aquatic plants just seem to be out of focus in traditional botany, and tend to be noticed more often by those who work with the water—aquatic ecologists, fish hatchery employees, and water quality specialists. I think this is a shame because our waterways present quite an interesting array of fairly diverse plants. You can see some families of plants, such as the Potamogetonaceae or Isoetaceae, that are only found in aquatic or semi-aquatic environments. On the flip side, you can also see such familiar families as the Araceae, Brassicaceae, and Plantaginaceae take on bizarre and sometimes completely unrecognizable forms in their aquatic representatives. With this in mind, I organized a late August trip with the Loasa Chapter to study some aquatic plants in the Magic Valley area.

Our meeting point was the Ritter Island Unit of Thousand Springs State Park in the Hagerman Valley area of Gooding County. Meeting in the parking lot, our merry band of five set off down the trail to Lemmon Falls, one of many large spring-fed waterfalls characteristic of the region. Two of the trip members were from the southern Gooding County area, and were there wanting to learn about their local plants. After getting distracted by several non-aquatic plants, we finally arrived at the base of the falls. A large pool sits at the base of the waterfall, with a talus slope made from crumbled basalt to its right. On the other side of the trail sits a channel of the Snake River, fed by the cool spring water. Aquatic plants abounded everywhere. I was curious about everything, so I set out and began to collect specimens. I grabbed a grass-like plant from the pool at the base of the waterfall, as well as a couple of the plants growing underwater in the river. I also scrambled up the talus slope to see what was growing right where the springs exited the cliff, but alas most of the plants there seemed to be odd-looking forms of common riparian plants, including monkeyflowers and some of the biggest bittersweet nightshade I have ever seen. Returning to the group below, we set out to determine what manner of flora we had found.

The first plant that we tried identifying was one of the most abundant. The plant formed large green mats underneath the water in the river, with flowers and some vegetation that protruded above the water. The inflorescences had mostly gone to fruit, but a couple still held small, blueish-purple flowers. The submerged and emergent portions of the plant had noticeably different coloration and morphology, almost as if they were composed of two plants fused together into an amphibious

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Letter from the President

Last spring I was hiking in the hills outside Pocatello and stumbled across a rather spindly-looking plant with small white flowers. I recognized it as something in the mustard family, but needed a key to confirm its identity as thale-cress (*Arabidopsis thaliana*). I knew the name thale-cress from the botanical literature because the species' small size, rapid annual life cycle, and relatively small genome have made it a popular model organism for plant molecular biology studies. In fact, it was the first plant to have its genome sequenced. I also knew thale-cress was not native to North America, but didn't know much else about the species. Because I could not recall coming across thale-cress in the field previously, I wanted to know a little more about it. After some quick research I learned that in 1982 aboard the Soviet Salyut space station, thale-cress became the first plant species to flower and produce fruits in space; and that since then has been one of the most commonly used species for astrobotany research. Reading about this quickly reminded me that all plant species have a story to tell. And it is these stories that help make plants so fascinating and so much fun.

As an INPS member you have more than a passing interest in plants; you became enamored with them for your own reasons. Amongst the varied reasons, I think one of the attractions for many of us is the litany of marvels displayed by plants—species that spend the majority of their life underground, a few that are pollinated by cockroaches, trees with thousands of miles of roots, a hectare of tropical rainforest supporting more than 400 different tree species, living bristlecone pines exceeding 5000 years in age, or being able to grow in microgravity aboard a space station, to name just a few of these wonders and surprises.

Being an INPS member, native plants are at least a small part of your life and something you care about and enjoy. Each member is part of the INPS mission to grow the public's understanding and appreciation of native plants, to collect and share information about our native flora, and to do and support the work that helps ensure the long-term conservation of native plants and their habitats for future generations. It is in this spirit that I want to remind everyone to renew their INPS membership for 2025. It is an effective way to show your continued commitment to the INPS mission. Our collective voice for native plants is stronger with your help.

Sincerely,
Michael Mancuso
INPS President

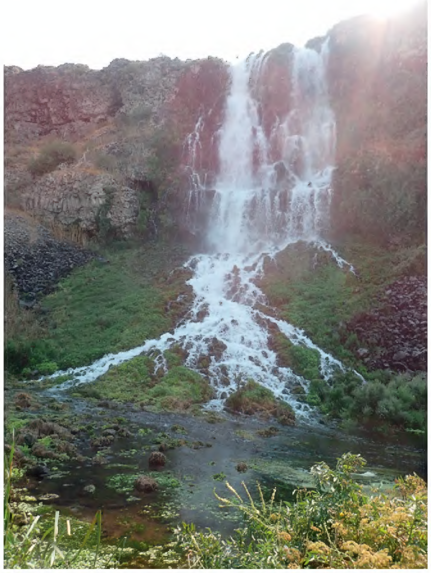
2025 Rare Plant Conference illustration by Karie Pappani.

Aquatic Plants *Continued from Page 1...*

A spring fed channel of the Snake River. The large green mats are clusters of Veronica anagallis-aquatica, water pimpernel.

chimera. We sauntered through the aquatic plant key, confirming a number of salient characters—not aromatic, superior ovary, leaves not linear, stipules absent. Finally we arrived at a somewhat surprising answer—Plantaginaceae, which contains familiar plants like plantain and *Penstemon*, which superficially seem to share little in common with the aquatic plant in front of us. Flipping to the family key, we eventually narrowed it down to *Veronica*, and then *Veronica angallis-aquatica*, also known as water pimpernel or water speedwell, a common aquatic weed. A few traits that distinguish it from other aquatic speedwells include light blue to purplish flowers, having two inflorescences per stem node, and sessile leaves.

Our next plant was a small aquatic forb growing near the water pimpernel in the river. It brought to mind an aquatic dandelion with pinnately compound leaves. Our two local trip members noted that it resembled watercress, but had a different look and smell. We ran it through the key and got Brassicaceae. Unfortunately, we couldn't key it further due to its lack of fruit/flowers, but we all agreed that it resembled the genus *Nasturtium*, which includes watercress.



Lemmon Falls, at Thousand Springs State Park–Ritter Island Unit.

We then moved onto a grass-like aquatic. The morphology of this one seemed quite bizarre and it was hard to get a handle on what was going on—the leaves were divided deeply into threadlike lobes which were so multitudinous it was difficult to tell where each leaf even began. No reproductive parts such as fruit or flowers were obvious. We tried to run it through the key but kept hitting dead ends (some of our members who had little to no keying experience gave it a shot!). Suddenly I noticed something, and borrowed one of our members' hand lens. Sure enough, if you looked really closely, there were actually tiny, paired fruit lining the stems. These just happened to match an illustration in the key almost perfectly—horned pondweed, *Zannichelia palustris* (Potamogetonaceae; pondweed family). We were confused, we had already passed that step, which called for tubular sheathing stipules, of which the plant in front of us clearly had none. We turned to the Potamogetonaceae page, and AH HAH! It turned out that the stipules actually fall off over the course of the season, something the family key failed to mention. Even though I'd never heard of it before, it turns out horned pondweed is a cosmopolitan species and is quite common. At a glance it appears simply like grass growing underwater.

A flower of Veronica anagallis-aquatica.

I love keying out plants, a sentiment that feels somewhat unpopular, even among botanists. I think my enthusiasm may have rubbed off on the rest of the group a bit. On top of that, I am certain all of us learned quite a lot. It was particularly exciting to have a couple locals out who had seen these plants many times but didn't know exactly what they were and will now hopefully be able to identify those species on their properties for years to come. They also ended up getting a crash course in botany, since there are so many fundamental botany terms and concepts you need to learn to navigate the key. It was great to see everybody participating. It was also fascinating to learn about the bizarre morphology of aquatic plants, even if many of those we found ended up being invasive. •

Zannichelia palustris, horned pondweed, fruit.

2025 INPS Annual Meeting: Hitch a Ride Along the Oregon Trail

By Vicki Henderson and Karie Pappani, Pahove Chapter

The Pahove Chapter is hosting "Hitch a Ride along the Oregon Trail." Pack your bags, grab your hiking boots, and mark your calendars for the 2025 INPS Annual Meeting at the beautiful Three Island Crossing State Park in Glenns Ferry, Idaho, from May 30 to June 2, 2025! Glenns Ferry, nestled along the scenic Snake River and rich in Oregon Trail history, offers the perfect backdrop for an activity-filled three days exploring the flora of southern Idaho.

The Lineup

Friday, May 30

Begin your adventure with a campground walkabout led by Barbara Ertter, followed by a potluck dinner and a presentation by Jerry Eichhorst on the tales of emigrants along the Oregon and California Trails. Expect humor, tragedy, and history brought vividly to life!

- 2:00-6:00 p.m. Check-in at the Sunrise View Pavilion at the Three Island Crossing State Park. This pavilion is located in the Trailside Lower Campground.
- 3:00-4:30 p.m. Campground walkabout with Barbara Ertter.
- 5:00-6:00 p.m. Quarterly meeting of the INPS State Board, location to be announced.
- 6:00 p.m. Potluck dinner at the Sunrise View Pavilion. Bring a dish to share, beverage and reusable plates, cups and utensils, and a camp chair to relax, visit, and listen to the presentation. For those not camping at the park, please park at the overflow lot located at the entrance of the Trailside Lower Campground.
- 7:00 p.m. Welcome by INPS State President Michael Mancuso.
- 7:15 p.m. Kickoff presentation at the pavilion: “History of Three Island Crossing” by Jerry Eichhorst, President of The Idaho Chapter of the Oregon California Trails Association.

Saturday, May 31

Join guided field trips exploring the local flora and landmarks. Wrap up the day with happy hour and a silent auction at the historic Glenns Ferry Opera Theatre, followed by a catered dinner and keynote presentation.

- 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Field trips (see below).
- 5:00-6:00 p.m. Happy Hour and ERIG silent auction at the Glenns Ferry Opera Theatre, 148 E Idaho Avenue—located about 1.5 miles from the park. The auction will benefit the Education Research Inventory Grant (ERIG) program. Chapters—please consider bringing and donating a basket for the silent auction.
- 6:00 p.m. Catered dinner at the Opera Theatre (vegetarian and gluten free options available).
- 7:30 p.m. INPS annual business meeting and election of officers.
- 7:45 p.m. Keynote presentation: “Flora of SW Idaho” by Don Mansfield.

Sunday, June 1

- 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Field trips (see below).
- 7:00 p.m. Bring your own dinner and we’ll have a get-together at the pavillion.

Monday, June 2 (Optional day)

- Time TBD. Field trips (see below).
- 1:00 p.m. Campground check-out.

Field Trips

Schedule is tentative. More details to come in the next issue of *Sage Notes* and online.

- *Campground Wildflower Walkabout*. Friday. ¼ Day.
- *Bennett Hills Loop*. Saturday. Full Day. (*Artemisia potentilloides*, *A. papposa*, *Pyrrocomas*)
- *Mud Flat Road & Oolites*. Saturday. Full Day.
- *Castle Creek North Side*. Saturday. Full Day.
- *Bruneau Sand Dunes*. Saturday. Sunday AM. Half Day.
- *Fossil Beds Interpretive Center*. Saturday (AM or PM?). Half Day. Also Thousand Springs.
- *Box Canyon Hike*. Sunday AM. Half Day. Also Balanced Rock south of Buhl.
- *Simco Road Playa and Soil Crusts*. Saturday (AM or PM or both? Or also Sunday?). Half Day. (*Lepidium davisii*). Talk about forage kochia. Maybe also a visit to the Ted Trueblood Wetland.
- *Indian Bathtubs and hike down to Bruneau River wetlands*. Sunday. ¾ Day. Maybe also Bruneau Overlook.

- *Other activities available in the area:* Kayaking/canoeing Blue Heart and other gentle waterways nearby depending on water level; Miracle Hot Springs,; Bruneau Dunes Observatory/Star Party.

Accommodations

Camping: Three Island Crossing State Park campgrounds offer dry cabins, tent camping, and full-hookup sites for RVs. We have already reserved most of the campsites on the lower loop (around Sunrise View Shelter) at Three Island Crossing. These sites are reserved for May 30, 31 and June 1. If you are coming before or leaving a little later, you can request a spot and then reserve the other days on the Idaho State Parks and Recreation website. For more info or to request one of the campsites that we have reserved, please contact Peggy Faith, subject heading "INPS reserve/camping," by emailing Pahove.Chapter@gmail.com. *Note:* Ten of the reserved campsites are companion sites where a maximum two RVs and two tents may have up to 16 people. Please let us know if you would like to share a site.

Park overview:

An Idaho State Parks Passport is required for vehicle entry ($10 annually or $7 daily). Visit Idaho Parks and Recreation for more information.

- *Address:* 1083 S. Three Island Park Drive, Glenns Ferry.
- *Check-in/out Times:*
    - *Camping Sites:* Check-in 2:00 p.m. Check-out 1:00 p.m.
    - *Cabins:* Check-in 3:00 p.m. Check-out noon.
- *Camping Sites:* Each site includes a parking spot, electric hookup, water spigot, fire ring, and picnic table (moveable).
- *Companion Sites:* 10 available; includes 2 parking spots, 2 tables, 2 fire rings, 2 water spigots, and 2 electric hookups and holds up to 16 people. Members are encouraged to pair up. Let us know if you are willing to share a site or already have someone in mind to share with.
- *Overflow Parking:* 15 spots at the beginning of the lower loop.
- *Firewood and Ice:* Available from the camp host.
- *Gift Shop:* Large and well-stocked with items branded with the park's name (e.g., water bottles, t-shirts, books).
- *Oregon Trail History and Education Center:* Features interactive displays, details on the wagons, Native American history, failed treaties, and food carried on the trail.

Other accommodations: Options you can book on your own include cabins at Three Island Crossing, Airbnbs in Glenns Ferry, and satellite choices in Hagerman and King Hill.

Registration

Information on how to register will be available on March 1, 2025. We will be using a Google form to register that links directly to online payment processing through Square. This form will populate a table with all of your registration information. We will also offer a pay by check option for those who prefer that.

Please refer to our registration form which will breakdown the costs for this event, which includes presentations, field trips, a potluck, a banquet meal, and many opportunities to connect with other members to collectively share our interest in Idaho's native flora and landmarks. •

The ERIG Auction Needs Your Contributions!

By Caroline Morris, Pahove Chapter

Let's have a vigorous, varied, well-stocked silent auction at the Annual Meeting May 31. All Auction proceeds will fund ERIG grants, this program's only funding source besides private donations. Your Auction contributions must be in good, clean, and usable condition with a minimum $25 retail value. You may offer any items you think others may buy. Possible categories may include, but are not limited to:

Art	Books	Camping/Sports equipment	Jewelry	Lodging
Note cards	Plants	Pottery	Tools	Services/Guided walks & hikes

If you have proposed donations, or questions, please contact Caroline Morris, the Collection Agent on Pahove's Auction Committee: fleursmorris@gmail.com. If appropriate, she will send you a donation listing form. Ask your friends or family for donations, too! If you are unable to attend, but have Auction contributions, ask your Chapter members for someone to bring your gift(s). Auction contribution(s) delivery dates/times and place(s), along with the bidding time frame, will be listed in the March *Sage Notes*, among other final details about the Annual Meeting. •

Idaho 25 Peaks Project

Bell Mountain Adventure

Article and Photo by Paul Allen, INPS Sawabi Chapter and High Desert Chapter Idaho Master Naturalists

Alpinists will tell you that weather conditions can dictate the prospects of success or disaster on a mountain. Botanists will tell you that they have schedules and commitments to attend to. And so, a dilemma.

As a part of the Idaho 25 Peaks botanical survey, Mike Merigliano, Linda Merigliano, Kristin Kaser, Nina Keck and I (Paul Allen) set our sights on the summit of Bell Mountain. It would prove challenging. Lightning strikes and pounding rain raked the desert before we even approached the mountains. Basinger Canyon was wet and shrouded in low clouds as we searched for levelish tent space amongst the rocky terrain. A large tarp, strung between trees provided communal shelter for a hasty meal. Later we would sort gear, and make final plans. In the mist and drizzle, it was a grim camp.

The forecast was marginally improved for the morning. We planned a 3 AM start. With headlamps we would forge a trackless path to a high ridge and hope for what the dawn might bring. 3 AM continued cold and wet. We tried to sleep til 4. Striking out in the darkness, we picked our way up the steep, slick, wooded slope by following the whims of the person in front of us. There was no trail. Douglas fir and Engleman spruce gave way to limber pine and subalpine fir in the talus slopes above.

As gray light imperceptibly dawned, we found ourselves enveloped in clouds and mist. With poorly founded optimism we hoped that the low clouds would delay solar heating of the ground and the subsequent development of thunderstorms. We considered escape routes, but soldiered on. The west ridge was finally attained by full morning. Though we were now well above the low clouds, higher stratus obscured the sky. A faint intermittent herd path now followed east towards a daunting summit profile.

What makes Bell Mountain so distinctive is the abrupt steepening of the highest prominence. From a distance it takes on the appearance of a giant Liberty Bell. However, the peak was so named after Robert Norman Bell, Idaho's first state mining inspector. It stands at 11,682' and is the second highest peak in the Lemhi Range of central Idaho. The last 700 vertical feet form the nipple-like "crown" atop the bell. It is fluted with cols and buttresses of unstable quartzite and scant, granular soil. One must guard against falling rock loosened by the climber ahead.

We reached the summit before noon, slow, but without incident. The clouds were now broken and the sun spotted the valleys below. Hurry, we must. Much of the summit was too steep and unstable to survey. We did the best we could in establishing and geolocating a perimeter, sampling the geology, photographing the flora, and making collections. Just off the north slope, Mike found the first specimens of the rare alpine poppy (*Papaver coloradense*). Kristin then located one in fruit. Our final inventory was not extensive and mirrored the prior collections of Steve and Pam Brunsfeld from fifty years prior.

Cumulus clouds were now building, and we fashioned a hasty retreat down the tortured rock and loose gravel. This proved more precarious in descent. We hoped to find shelter below the exposed ridges before the clouds began to spark. In the light of day we could now better appreciate the route we had ascended by headlamp: gnarled ancient limber pine scarred of fire; bus-sized boulders; avalanche chutes; talus slopes with chirping pika... things better appreciated when not harried by weather and tempered with exhaustion. Knees and thighs ached from the challenges of deep downstepping in endless boulder fields. At journeys' end we collapsed to the ground. Processing plants would have to wait. •

Announcement

Registration for the 2025 Idaho Rare Plant Conference Underway

By Crista O'Connor and Elle Kramer, U.S. Forest Service Botanists and RPC Co-Chairs

Registration for the 2025 Idaho Rare Plant Conference, to be held February 25-27 at the Idaho Fish and Game SW Regional Office in Nampa, is underway! This year's conference theme is "Alpine Ecosystems," featuring *Papaver coloradense*, Rocky Mountain poppy—a recently confirmed Idaho alpine species. Keynote speaker Dr. Hannah Marx will be sharing her research on the floristic diversity of high-alpine summits, including her work with the Idaho Peaks Project. Other presentations include the "Denver Botanic Garden Alpine Strategy," updates on ongoing alpine research in Idaho, and several exciting recent discoveries in species groups and locations of interest. The conference will also include business-as-usual tasks such as ranking of rare plant species

from the Northern and Southern Idaho Rare Plant Working Groups, and updates from land managers and other stakeholders.

New this year, we are pleased to offer a virtual option for those unable to join us in-person in Nampa. For more information and to register, please access the registration form via the link (https://forms.office.com/g/4iAYJhZqCt) or use the QR code. At the end of the registration form there's a link to the payment form. Check the boxes to calculate fees and make your payment using PayPal.

Please complete your registration online by **February 3, 2025** to avoid a $10 late registration fee. There is still available space in the poster session; individuals interested in participating should reach out to conference organizers Crista O'Conner (crista.oconer@usda.gov) and Elle Kramer (elizabeth.kramer@usda.gov). •

INPS Scholarships

INPS Scholarship Program

By Elizabeth Martin, White Pine Chapter, Scholarship Committee Member

The Idaho Native Plant Society is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to promoting interest in native plants and plant communities, and collecting and sharing information on all phases of the botany of native plants in Idaho. We seek to foster an understanding and appreciation of our native flora and to preserve this rich heritage for future generations. In keeping with this mission, we invite applications for two scholarships of $2000 each to be awarded in 2025, as we want to support college or university students interested in native plants and plant communities. We encourage all undergraduate and graduate students who are eligible to apply. (Visit https://idahonativeplants.org/scholarship-news/)

Eligibility Criteria

The scholarship will be available for full- or part-time graduate or undergraduate students enrolled in any accredited 2- or 4-year college or university in Idaho. Student applicants must be registered for a minimum of 6 college or university semester credits (or equivalent) at the time of the award.

Student applicants must demonstrate an interest in botany, horticulture, forestry, rangeland ecology, environmental science, agriculture, conservation, science education, natural resources, or a closely related program. They must be pursuing a major in one of these fields. Previous recipients are not eligible.

Application Materials

1. Application form that includes student information, relevant experience, and a personal statement.
2. Letter of recommendation. Student applicants must solicit a letter of recommendation from a faculty member or other mentor who can speak to the student's character and goals specific to the scholarship. Letters should be sent directly to INPSScholarship@gmail.com.

Evaluation Criteria

The committee will evaluate applicants based on:

- Application is complete and student meets eligibility requirements
  - Application is complete with personal statement and letter of recommendation.
  - Student meets eligibility requirements (related major, enrolled in at least 6 credits in accredited Idaho 2- or 4-year university, demonstrates interest in Idaho native plants).
- Quality of the application
  - Student's personal statement aligns well with the INPS mission.
  - Student communicates clearly about their goals and how this scholarship will help them achieve their goals.
  - Student explains how their volunteer, work, and leadership experience are relevant.
- Content of Letter of Recommendation

Send all application materials by **March 15, 2025** to INPSScholarship@gmail.com. Please ask the individual submitting your letter of recommendation to send it directly to INPSScholarship@gmail.com. PDF format is preferred for all documents. •

Application Form

https://idahonativeplants.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/INPS-Application-Form2025_Fillable.pdf

The City of Hailey (Again) Thanks INPS for ERIG!

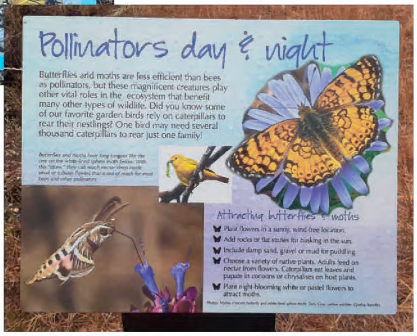
Article and Photos by Linda Ries, Wood River Chapter

The City of Hailey, the Hailey Tree Committee and the Wood River Chapter of INPS wish to thank INPS and the ERIG program administrators for their generous support for Hailey's ERIG proposal: "Native Plants and Pollinators Go Hand in Hand," for new signage at the Hailey Native Plant Arboretum.

Wood River chapter INPS volunteers at the Arboretum, from left: Jim Rineholt, Ted Stout, Carol Henry, and Jay Dorr.

The Hailey Native Plant Arboretum was established over 25 years ago along the Wood River Trail (aka the bike trail) at Fox Acres Road with grant funding from the Urban and Community Forestry Program of the USDA Forest Service, and Idaho Department of Lands. It is considered a hidden gem in Hailey—a small representation of Idaho native landscapes. In addition to education and appreciation of Idaho native plants, another mission of the Arboretum is to encourage citizen appreciation of native pollinators and their importance to sustainability of native plants!

The City of Hailey received this 2023 ERIG grant to create pollinator-themed educational signs for the Arboretum. Hailey Tree Committee volunteers and Wood River Chapter INPS members were researching ideas for native plant pollinator signage. I visited with Lynn Kinter after the 2023 INPS state meeting and she shared some pictures of pollinator signs she used at Idaho Fish and Game native garden sites that were created by interpretive specialist Jane Rohling.



I contacted Jane and she said she had an additional set of pollinator themed signs and bases. After realizing these attractive signs met our goals, the City of Hailey agreed to buy this extra set using ERIG grant funds. Volunteers installed these signs on July 16, 2024. In addition to installing signs, volunteers maintain the Arboretum by weeding, watering and giving tours of the site.

Themes for the five full color signs include: providing water for pollinators; the difference between social vs solitary bees; how to create habitat for native bees, attracting bees and moths (pollinators day and night); generalist vs specialist pollinators; and how to provide nectar plants spring through fall. These signs have been greatly appreciated by the public!

We are now working with Hailey City staff and community members to pursue Bee City USA certification for 2025. The plan is to host a celebration next summer at the Arboretum in honor of this certification and to highlight the annual National Pollinator Week in June. We hope you are able to stop by and enjoy the Arboretum the next time you are in Hailey. You can find the Hailey Native Plant Arboretum on Google maps! •

Installing signs. From left: Linda Ries, Paul Ries, and Jim Rineholt checking the straightness of the post.

2025 Education, Research, and Inventory Grant Program Awards

By Steve Rust, ERIG Committee Chair

The INPS Education, Research, and Inventory Grants (ERIG) Program seeks to stimulate and promote research, conservation, and educational activities which contribute to the appreciation, conservation, or knowledge of Idaho's native flora and plant communities. Work to advance these objectives continued with a good pace in 2024. The ERIG Committee, with approval of the INPS Board, is pleased to announce four new recipients for the 2025 grant program.

Many thanks to ERIG Committee members Derek Antonelli, Janet Bala, Penny Morgan, and Ray Corbin and previous grant recipients for their contributions in making this INPS program a success.

Enhancing the Hailey Native Plant Arboretum with Entrance Signage!

Located along Wood River Trail, the Hailey Native Plant Arboretum is a popular stopover for hikers and bikers on the trail. Development of the Arboretum has been championed by volunteer efforts of INPS Wood River Chapter and Hailey Tree Committee. Successful ERIG support has contributed to educational signage and plant specimen labeling in recent years. This year's grant will support the purchase and placement of new entrance signage.

Building a Native Plant Propagation Program to Support Wet Meadow and Riparian Restoration Efforts for Pollinators and Songbirds at Camas National Wildlife Refuge

Submitted by Friends of Camas National Wildlife Refuge and refuge staff. 2025 ERIG funding will support on-site native plant restoration. The objectives of the project are to (1) increase the diversity and distribution of ecologically important forbs, shrubs, and trees; and (2) augment opportunities for public education and involvement through volunteer opportunities, educational activities, and presentations. The 11,000-acre Camas NWR encompasses wetland, riparian, and sagebrush-steppe habitats of the upper Snake River Plain. The site is located near Idaho Falls and is frequently enjoyed by the community for birding, botanizing, and open space.

On the Development of Structural Complexity and its Role in Driving Variability in Development, Productivity, and Resilience in Northern Idaho White Pine Forests

This project will contribute to research being conducted by Brandon Light, University of Idaho, on the dynamics of western white pine stands located on the historic Priest River Experimental Forest. The study will utilize long-term permanent plots to assess (1) the role of environmental variability in development of structural complexity and (2) the extent to which pre-disturbance stand structural complexity enhances resilience and productivity following widespread white pine blister rust mortality.

A Mixed-Method Approach to Understanding Changes in Netleaf Hackberry (Celtis reticulata) Habitat Across Space and Time on the Lower Salmon River, Idaho

Netleaf hackberry is an important species in both hot, dry upland and wetter riparian habitats within the Snake River gorge of west central Idaho. This project will support research by Richard Thaxton, University of Idaho, on the changes in the growth and distribution of netleaf hackberry in relation to climate change. The study will utilize (1) data re-sampled at permanent plots established by Anne DeBolt and Bruce McCune in 1995, (2) netleaf hackberry increment tree cores, and (3) repeat photography to identify changes in upland and riparian plant communities, create a map of netleaf hackberry growth across space and time on the Lower Salmon River, assess climatic factors limiting growth of the species, and document changes in netleaf hackberry populations through time. •

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Chapter News

CALYPSO CHAPTER

Public is invited to all chapter activities. All chapter activities are subject to change—watch chapter emails for updates. Contact Derek Antonelli to be added to email list.
When: The next chapter meeting will be March 5 at 7:00 pm. Chapter meetings are held on the first Wednesday evenings of March, April, May, and October.
Where: Meetings will be held in the IDFG Hunter Education Building, 2885 W Kathleen Ave, Coeur d'Alene.
Contact: For more information about Calypso Chapter activities, contact Derek Antonelli at ds.ca.antonelli@gmail.com.
Upcoming Events
North Idaho Rare Plant Working Group Meetings: Starting mid-January, there will be a series of meetings this winter and spring and again in the fall where botanist and other interested participants discuss the status of potentially rare plants in northern Idaho. These meetings usually last two or three hours and are conducted by Zoom. If interested in participating or just listening, you can contact Derek for information or an invite.
March 5: The presentation topic for this meeting has not been determined yet. Please submit topic suggestions. 7:00 pm, IDFG Hunter Education Building.
April 2: The presentation topic for this meeting has not been determined yet. Please submit topic suggestions. 7:00 pm, IDFG Hunter Education Building.
April 19: Earth Day Event at the Coeur d'Alene Library, 10:00 to 2:00 pm. Calypso Chapter hopes to sponsor a booth. You can volunteer to help at our booth or just stop by to check out the event.
April TBD: Early Spring Plant Walk. We will conduct a plant walk in April on one of our great local trails. Details will be provided in the chapter email.

LOASA CHAPTER

When: Regular meetings are on pause currently.
Where: TBD
Contact: For more information about Loasa Chapter activities, please contact Bill Bridges, bridgesbill34@yahoo.com. Big thank you to Samuel DeGrey for serving as Loasa Chapter President this past year and being involved with INPS.

PAHOVE CHAPTER

When: Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month from October–April starting at 7:00 pm. Times, dates, and topics are tentative. Current information will be sent to members via email. Announcements are also posted on the Pahove Chapter page of the INPS website: https://idahonativeplants.org/pahove/
Where: Chapter presentations currently offer hybrid viewing formats, both in-person at MK Nature Center, 401 S Walnut St, Boise, and a Zoom link for at-home enjoyment.
Contact: For more information about Pahove Chapter activities visit the website: www.idahonativeplants.org or email Karie Pappani at pahove.chapter.president@gmail.com
Upcoming Events
January 14: Martha Brabec, City of Boise: "Integrating New Research in Sagebrush Steppe Management: Challenges and Solutions."
February 11: Michelle Stevens: "Restoration with Traditional Ecological Knowledge."
February 25-27: Idaho Rare Plant Conference at the IDFG Regional Office in Nampa.
March 11: Lynn Kinter: "A Tale of Two Gardens."
April 8: Barbara Ertter: "Circumnavigating Spain."
May 30-June 2: INPS Annual Meeting at Three Island Crossing in Glenns Ferry.
Past Events
October 8: Ann DeBolt spoke about protecting unique ecological systems and plants at the Mud Flat Oolite Site in Owyhee County.
November 12: Cheri Clausen, an ERIG recipient, discussed her project of landscaping the Weiser Depot.
December 10: Shawn Taylor presented trends and insights from iNaturalist data across the state.

SAWABI CHAPTER

We welcome the public to our chapter's informative spring programs and warm weather plant walks.
When: All plant walks and spring programs are no longer prescheduled but will be announced via email.
Where: Spring programs are presented in Pond Student Union Building classrooms, ISU Campus, Pocatello.
Contact: For more information contact Paul Allen at pokyallen@hotmail.com.

WHITE PINE CHAPTER

When: Meetings are typically held the third Wednesday of the month, September through April. Current information is posted on our chapter webpage: https://www.whitepineinps.org/WPschedule.html
Where: Meetings are held in-person in the 1912 Center Lecompte Auditorium (2nd floor) in Moscow. Video recordings of meetings will be made available on our YouTube Channel a few days after each meeting.
Contact: For more information about White Pine Chapter activities, contact us at INPS, White Pine Chapter, PO Box 8481, Moscow, ID 83843 or whitepine.chapter@gmail.com. Visit the chapter website (https://www.whitepineinps.org/) for upcoming event information. Visit our chapter YouTube channel (@whitepinechapterinps9555) to hear past talks.
Upcoming Events
January 15: Presentation by Lisa Morris and Penny Morgan, "Native Flowers on Local Hikes: A Photographic Journey." 7:00 pm at the 1912 Center.
February 19: Presentation by Eva Strand and Steve Bunting, "Fascinating and Essential: Grasses and Grasslands." 7:00 pm at the 1912 Center.
March 19: Presentation by Leda Kobziar, "Microbial Content of Wildfire Smoke." 7:00 pm at the 1912 Center.

WOOD RIVER CHAPTER

When: Typically we have talks in the cold months and walks in the warm ones. Non-members are welcome. Please see our website or email newsletter for information on all programs.
Where: Field trip and talk locations and details will be included with the description, posted online and emailed to members and other interested parties.
Contact: For more information about Wood River Chapter activities: email: woodriverinps@gmail.com; website: https://woodriverinps.wixsite.com/wrinps. To subscribe to our newsletter, email the above address. •

Pahove Chapter Efforts Recognized - Foote Park Interpretive Center

By Caroline Morris and Ann DeBolt, Pahove Chapter and Foote Park Pahove Planning Committee

The Foote Park Interpretive Center (FPIC), located below Lucky Peak Dam in East Boise, is a historic memorial honoring Boise pioneers Arthur and Mary Hallock Foote. Arthur was an engineer prominent in early Idaho irrigation efforts; Mary was a successful illustrator and author. Foote Park's pavilion and interpretive features were dedicated in 2018. At that time, only invasive plants, with some sagebrush and rabbitbrush, surrounded the pavilion. Some Pahove members suggested that a native plant garden near the former site of the Foote home (from 1885-1889) would enhance the FPIC. The leaders of the project agreed.

On September 21, 2024, FPIC awarded the Pahove Chapter a well-deserved plaque of appreciation for creating and maintaining a very attractive native plant garden at Foote Park.

The Pahove Planting Committee was formed in 2019 to install and maintain this native plant garden. Volunteers have included Mary McGown (the plan drafter who sadly passed away in 2020), Alice and Alan Crockett, Ann DeBolt, Vicki and Ed Henderson, Caroline Morris, and Roger Rosentreter. Preparation of the elliptical planting bed began with meticulous, laborious weeding, followed by adding a layer of chat mulch (decomposed granite) to improve drainage and reduce weed reinvasion. Ann selected plants that could tolerate the hot, exposed location and that would have likely been present when the Footes lived there. These include buckwheats, globemallow, penstemon, phacelia, evening-primrose, and Great Basin wildrye. Furious watering in summer 2019 gave the new plants a healthy start. Ann's botanical magic convinced nearly everything to thrive. She continually extends the scope of plantings by adding new native seedlings and plants along path peripheries.

FPIC in the beginning stages after the initial planning and intensive weeding. Photo by Emil Traenkner, 6 years ago.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers manages the Lucky Peak area, including Foote Park. They value this garden's visual and botanical additions, and have cooperatively provided large enclosing boulders, plant labels and some watering.

Foote Park Interpretive Center leaders, Mary Ann Arnold and Janet Worthington, hosted a recognition ceremony in September 2024, when they dedicated a sign thanking Pahove members for this native plant installation and maintenance. We never had anticipated the growing lure of working in this naturally beautiful environment. Alice Crockett captured perfectly Foote Park's destination essence: "A place where history, nature and the pioneer spirit and ingenuity are on full display." Visit and enjoy it yourself! •

For more information, check https://footeparkproject.wixsite.com/website, footeparkproject@gmail.com.

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- □ Pahove (Boise)
- □ Sawabi (Pocatello)
- □ Upper Snake (Idaho Falls) - *Inactive*
- □ White Pine (Moscow)
- □ Wood River (Ketchum/Sun Valley)
- □ No Chapter

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Memberships run calendar year. New memberships enrolled after June 1 include the following year. ***Renew or join online:*** https://idahonativeplants.org/membership/

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